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## Inventory of the Phillip (Phil) Isenberg Papers

Processed by Avi Brotslaw

California State Archives

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## Inventory of the Philip (Phil) L. Isenberg Papers

### Collection number: LP431

California State Archives  
Office of the Secretary of State  
Sacramento, California

Processed by:

Avi Brotslaw

Date Completed:

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Encoded by:

Brenda Newman

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Phil Isenberg Papers

**Dates:** 1983-1996

**Collection number:** LP431

**Creator:** Phil Isenberg, California Legislator

**Collection Size:** 13.75 cubic feet

**Repository:** California State Archives

Sacramento, California

**Abstract:** The Phil Isenberg Papers consist of 13.75 cubic feet of textual and audio-visual records and cover the years 1983-1996. The collection is organized into three record series: Bill Files (1983-1996), Proposition 39 Correspondence (1984), and Subject Files (1983-1985). The Bill Files document his legislative activity during his term as a member of the California State Legislature. The bills introduced by Phil Isenberg include a wide array of subjects such as water issues, healthcare reform, and local government.

**Physical location:** California State Archives

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

### Access

While the majority of the records are open for research, any access restrictions are noted in the record series descriptions.

### Publication Rights

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### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Phil Isenberg Papers, LP431:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

### Acquisition and Custodial History

The California State Archives acquired the Phil Isenberg Papers following his final term in the State Legislature.

### Biography

California legislator Phil L. Isenberg, Democrat, was a State Assembly Member 1983-1996. He first represented the 10th Assembly District but, due to redistricting, he ran in the 9th Assembly District in 1992. The 9th Assembly District was entirely in Sacramento County and encompassed the central portion of the city of Sacramento and the Natomas and Laguna areas. Isenberg served the 9th Assembly District until leaving office due to term limits in 1996. He also served as the assistant Speaker Pro Tempore from 1986-1988.

He was born on February 25, 1939, in Gary, Indiana and moved to California in 1945. Isenberg graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a bachelor's degree in Social Science and Government. He also holds a law degree from

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the University of California, Berkeley. He was first elected to the Sacramento City Council in 1971 and served as mayor from 1975 until his election to the State Assembly in 1982. While Isenberg was mayor he ran for Congress in 1978 but lost in the primary to Robert Matsui.

Phil Isenberg served on the Constitutional Revision Commission, California Judicial Council, RAND Advisory Board on Immigration, and the Milbank Foundation's Primary Care Project. Isenberg was appointed by Governor Gray Davis as an advisor to help prepare the 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 budget. In 2004, Isenberg became the chair of the Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force. Currently he teaches public policy development and budget and fiscal policy at McGeorge School of Law. Isenberg previously taught at Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley and the Graduate School of Public Policy at California State University, Sacramento.

During his term in the Legislature, Phil Isenberg was a member of the following committees:

**State Assembly, 1983-1996**

*Standing Committees*

Banking and Finance, 1995-1996  
Consumer Protection, Governmental Efficiency and Economic Development, 1995-1996  
Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments, 1987-1990  
Governmental Efficiency and Cost Control, 1983-1985  
Health, 1983-1994  
Vice-Chairman (1983-1984)  
Housing and Community Development, 1983-1996  
Judiciary, 1987-1996  
Chair (1988-1994)  
Public Safety, 1994  
Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments, 1987-1988  
Revenue and Taxation, 1989-1996  
Rules, 1983-1988  
Transportation, 1983-1984  
Utilities and Commerce, 1995-1996  
Water, Parks and Wildlife, 1983-1994  
Ways and Means, 1984-1988

*Select Committees*

Census, 1989-1990  
Common Interest Subdivision, 1983-1984  
Fairs Allocation and Classification, 1983-1984  
Low Level Nuclear Waste, 1985-1986  
Oversight of the Office of Administrative Law, 1983-1984  
Property Tax and Local Government Finance, 1991-1992  
Restructuring Government, 1993-1994  
Victim Restitution, 1983-1984

*Special Committees*

Medi-Cal Oversight, 1983-1992  
Oversight for Tobacco Tax Program, 1991-1992  
\*Chair, 1991-1992

*Subcommittees*

Administration of Justice, 1989-1992  
Courthouse Financing and Construction, 1989-1990  
Health on Health Personnel, 1985-1990  
International Migration and Cooperative Development, 1987-1990  
Legislative Ethics, 1985-1990  
Refugee Resettlement, 1987-1990

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Resources, Agriculture and the Environment, 1987-1988  
Review of the Master Plan for Higher Education, 1985-1988  
Tort Liability, 1989-1990  
\*Vice-Chairman (1989-1990)  
Ways and Means on Education, 1985-1986  
Ways and Means on Resources and Parks, 1985-1986  
*Joint Subcommittees*  
Long Term Care, 1985-1986  
*Joint Committees*  
Budget Committee, 1991-1992  
Ethics Committee, 1991-1992  
Rules, 1983-1988  
*Boards/Committees*  
California Constitution Revision Commission, 1993-1994  
Capitol Area Committee, 1983-1992  
Judicial Council, 1989-1994  
Public Works Board, 1985-1994  
Task Force on Local Government Realignment, 1994-1995  
Wildlife Conservation Board, 1983-1994

In addition, Isenberg served as the Assistant Speaker pro Tempore (1986-1988).

#### **Scope and Content**

The Phil Isenberg Papers consist of 13.75 cubic feet of textual and audio-visual records and cover the years 1983-1996. The collection is organized into three record series: Bill Files (1983-1996), Proposition 39 Correspondence (1984), and Subject Files (1983-1985). The Bill Files document his legislative activity during his term as a member of the California State Legislature. The bills introduced by Phil Isenberg include a wide array of subjects such as water issues, healthcare reform, and local government.

The bill files are the largest series, comprising over 90% of the records. During Isenberg's term he authored several bills that were deemed controversial in nature. In the 1987-1988 session he co-authored AB67, a bill that would require a minor seeking an abortion to obtain parental consent. He also authored AB600 (1987-1988), which would have provided those unable to obtain adequate health insurance with a form of catastrophic health insurance. This bill would have been financed by an increase in the taxable wage ceiling of the state disability insurance tax. Another healthcare reform attempt included AB60 (1989-1990) which set up a state-sponsored insurance pool that allowed people with pre-existing conditions to be able to buy adequate health coverage. This measure was financed in part by the Proposition 99 (1988) tobacco tax revenues to fund the risk pool. Isenberg's AB1306 (1991-1992) would have allowed an employee who was fired for refusing to take a drug test to be eligible for unemployment benefits. Other bills of interest include AB1455 (1993-1994), which would have prohibited the execution of a mentally retarded person, and ACR27 (1993-1994), which banned smoking in the State Capitol.

The second series, Proposition 39 Correspondence (1984) relates to Proposition 39, which would have created a redistricting commission to re-draw the boundaries for the state assembly, senate, Board of Equalization, and the U.S. congressional districts. The measure would have allowed the Governor to select judges to appoint members to the redistricting committee. This plan would have altered the districts and would most likely favor the Republican Party gaining seats in the state legislature as well as California's congressional delegation. Speaker Willie Brown and Phil Isenberg worked together to defeat Proposition 39. Although the proposition was defeated, a similar independent citizen commission was established by Proposition 11 in 2008 to redraw the districts. The Subject Files are the second largest record series and relate to issues such as education and gay rights. There are also several subject files relating to business practices and the environment. Other significant topics include an overview of the crime rate and community college funding.

#### **Accruals**

No further accruals are expected.

#### **Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.  
Isenberg, Phillip

LP431:1-255

Series 1 **Bill Files 1983-1996**

**Physical Description:** 255 file folders

**Access Information**

Access to audiovisual material requires the production of use copies.

**Arrangement**

Bill files are arranged chronologically by legislative session and then numerically by bill number.

**Scope and Content Note**

Bill files authored by Phil Isenberg may include bill analyses, amendments and resolutions, author's statements, testimony, press releases, editorials and newspaper clippings, correspondence, committee statements, and other information. Bills of particular interest include AB67 (1987-1988), which would require a minor seeking an abortion to obtain parental consent, and AB198 (1985-1986), which took out a provision from the government code that allows the state to dismiss a state employee during wartime on the basis of their ethnic/geographic background. This government code was previously used to fire over 300 Japanese-Americans from state employment in California during World War II. Other bills of interest include AB1732 (1987-1988), which limits the ability of a doctor to directly sell drugs to patients and AB 600, which would have allowed those unable to obtain adequate health insurance to buy catastrophic health insurance from the state. Another bill of interest includes AB75 (1989-1990), which allocates a portion of the Proposition 99 (1988) tobacco tax surcharge revenues to hospitals. This bill provided about \$155 million to state hospitals. Audiotapes and a VHS tape have been separated into a cold-storage vault for preservation purposes and separation sheets are in the bill files to alert the researcher to the existence of these tapes.

1983-1984: AB481-AB3792, ACA29, ACR108-ACR138,AJR7-AJR65 (27ff) LP431:1-27

1985-1986: AB74-AB4372 (35ff) LP431:28-62

1987-1988: AB8-AB4686, ACR153, AJR55-AJR93 (53ff) LP431:63-115

1989-1990: AB15-AB4329, AJR47-AJR80 (52ff) LP431:116-167

1991-1992: AB78-AB3672 (38ff) LP431:168-205

1993-1994: AB32-AB3822, ACR27 (43ff) LP431:206-248

1995-1996: AB36-AB2063 (7ff) LP431:249-255

LP431:256

Series 2 **Proposition 39 File 1984**

**Physical Description:** 1 file folder

**Arrangement**

Arranged chronologically by date of correspondence.

**Scope and Content Note**

This series contains correspondence between Assembly Democrats dealing with their strategies to defeat Proposition 39, which would have created a redistricting commission to re-draw the boundaries for the state assembly, senate, Board of Equalization, and the U.S. congressional districts. The measure would have allowed the Governor to select judges to appoint members to the redistricting committee. The series also includes memoranda, statistical findings, notes, and newspaper clippings.

LP431:257-276

Series 3 **Subject Files 1983-1985**

**Physical Description:** 20 file folders

**Arrangement**

Subject files are arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

**Scope and Content Note**

Subject files created by Phil Isenberg may include correspondence, memoranda, statistical findings, published and unpublished reports, notes, and newspaper clippings. Of particular note are those files related to education, gay rights, business practices, and the environment.

1983: Business Issues (2ff) LP431:257-258

1984-1985: Child Abuse (1ff) LP431:259

1983: Community College Funding (2ff) LP431:260-261

1983-1984: Crime (1ff) LP431:262

1983-1984: Discrimination (1ff) LP431:263

1983-1985: Education Issues (7ff) LP431:264-270

1983-1984: Election Issues (1ff) LP431:271

1983-1985: Environmental Issues (2ff) LP431:272-273

1983: Gay Rights (1ff) LP431:274

1983-1984: State Issues (2ff) LP431:275-276